

GOCE

Satellites offer the only possible way to survey the entire gravitational force field of the Earth uniformly. GOCE will investigate the seas, oceans and interior of the Earth from an altitude of about 250 kilometres for at least 24 months



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THEOS

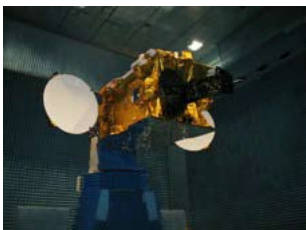
The THEOS system provides Thailand with worldwide geo-referenced image products and image processing capabilities for Earth observation applications



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Hot Bird 10

Developed and manufactured by Astrium for Eutelsat, Hot Bird 10 joins Hot Bird 8 and Hot Bird 9, also built by Astrium and launched in August 2006 and December 2008 respectively, at Eutelsat's prime orbital position, delivering TV and radio broadcast services across Europe, North Africa and the Middle East



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Astrium Update

Recent headlines from Europe's leading space company

17 March

European research satellite GOCE in orbit

The European Space Agency's GOCE research satellite, for which Astrium provided the platform, was launched on 17 March by a Rockot vehicle from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in Russia. GOCE will measure the Earth's gravitational field more precisely than ever before to improve our understanding of the climate.

<http://www.astrium.eads.net/en/press-center/press-releases/2009/astrium-built-goce-platform-now-surfs-for-climate-research>

27 February

Infoterra-developed service for wine growers wins award

The Oenoview® service for the wine growing industry developed by Astrium's subsidiary Infoterra with the French Institut Coopératif du Vin took the bronze medal in the 'Agriculture and New Technologies' category at the Paris International Agriculture Show. Oenoview uses satellite imagery analysis to carefully monitor vine growth and identify differences in grape quality from one plot of land to the next or within a single plot.

<http://www.astrium.eads.net/en/press-center/press-releases/2009/oenoviewae-wins-award-at-the-paris-international-agriculture-show>

23 February

One year of the Passerel service

The Passerel service provided by Astrium Services which enables French troops overseas to stay in contact with friends and families back home has celebrated one year of operation. In mid-January 2008, initial Passerel telephone and internet installation began. French troops made the first phone calls on 30 January 2008. On 23 February 2009, the next phase of Passerel telephone and Internet cards was launched.

18 February

Thai Earth observation system THEOS commences service

Following its 1 October 2008 launch, in-orbit tests of the THEOS observation satellite developed by Astrium for the Thai Space Agency (GISTDA), were successfully completed in December. The system has been officially accepted by GISTDA, which has now taken over responsibility for operations.

12 February

Launch of Hot Bird 10 and Spirale

The first Ariane 5 mission of 2009 successfully launched three Astrium-primed satellites: the Hot Bird 10 broadcast satellite for operator Eutelsat and the two microsattellites of the Spirale early-warning system demonstrator for the French MoD. Astrium is single prime contractor for the Ariane 5 system.



4 February

Two new satellites for Arabsat

The Saudi-Arabian operator Arabsat selected the Astrium–Thales Alenia Space consortium to build and deliver in orbit two new communications satellites, Arabsat 5C and Arabsat 6B. Astrium, the leading partner, will supply the Eurostar E3000 platforms and integrate the satellites. Both satellites will weigh less than 5 tonnes and will be launched in 2010–12 by Ariane 5.

<http://www.astrium.eads.net/en/press-center/press-releases/2009/astrium-and-thales-alenia-space-partners-of-arabsat-for-two-more-satellites>

30 January

Astrium to build 35 new Ariane 5 launchers

Astrium Space Transportation and Arianespace signed a contract for the production of 35 Ariane 5 ECA launchers (the 'PB' batch). These PB batch launchers will be used starting in the second half of 2010, after the 30 Ariane 5 launchers ordered in 2004 (the 'PA' batch). Astrium is the sole prime contractor for Ariane 5, delivering a complete, tested and integrated launcher to Arianespace at the Space Centre in Kourou, French Guiana. Astrium manages all industry contracts for the 12 countries which are partners in the Ariane programme.

<http://www.astrium.eads.net/en/press-center/press-releases/2009/arianespace-orders-35-ariane-5-eca>

13 January

Astrium acquires world leader in small satellites

Astrium acquired Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL), specialist in the design and manufacture of small satellites and subsystems. SSTL has built its worldwide reputation in small satellites through the development of innovative technologies which have lowered the cost of operational space missions.

<http://www.astrium.eads.net/en/press-center/press-releases/2009/astrium-acquires-surrey-satellite-technology-limited>

Ariane 5

The Ariane 5 ECA vehicle provides geostationary transfer orbit payload capacity of up to 10 tonnes on dual launches. It incorporates a cryogenic upper stage carrying over 14 tonnes of propellants, and a strengthened cryogenic main stage, powered by the Vulcain 2 engine



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SSTL

Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd is a world leader in the design, manufacture and operation of high performance small satellites with experience gained over more than 25 years and 32 missions launched



About Astrium

Astrium is global space industry leader, with world-class expertise and extensive prime contractor experience across all sectors of the space business – launch vehicles, manned space activities, civil and military satellite systems and services.

Astrium employs over 13,000 people in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain and the Netherlands.

Astrium is a wholly owned subsidiary of EADS, a global leader in aerospace, defence and related services.

For more information:

www.astrium.eads.net

